SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Our Enemy Number One

THE US President who speaks much—rather too much—of peace is incontestably Mr Nixon. In his State of the Union Message dealing with US foreign policy, he extolled the "negotiation era." After that, he trumpeted the pullout of additional US troops from Viet Nam, then produced his 8-point peace plan.

Now he is busy with peddling peace.

One still remembers that 4 years ago, he came out strongly against Johnson's war policy, pledged to end the war in 6 months, and entered the White House. Six months later, instead of ending the war, Nixon spread the doctrine bearing his name, meant essentially to using the lives of other people at the service of US dirty neo-colonialism. For Asia, it is a "new doctrine," and for Viet Nam, it is the "Vietnamization" of the war.

IN furtherance of "Vietnamization," the Vietnamese are instrumental to the scheme of withdrawing gradually American GIs, and beefing up the Saigon troops to be the main operational force under US command, with maximum support from US aviation, navy, artillery, armour and logistics. South Viet Nam is to become an American neo-colony and military base, and the war is widening and increasing in Cambodia and Laos. We must remember that Nixon has reserved "adequate priorities" to "Vietnamization"! In 3 years barely, from 1969 to 1971, he spent 51 billion dollars for the Viet Nam war, whereas Johnson, during 4 years (from 1965 to 1968) took only 47.1 billion for it. In the first days of 1972, Nixon's budget message laid particular emphasis on the rise in "Vietnamization" expenditure.

Though having had to repatriate a sizeable contingent of US troops from South Viet Nam, he still continues the killing in Indochina with big military forces involving US occupation troops, naval and air units stationed in South Viet Nam, Thailand and the Pacific, and more than one million Saigon and Phnom Penh soldiers, the Vang Pao bandit's special forces, the Vientiane rightist troops and Thai mercenaries. Obviously, "Vietnamization," far from putting an end to the war, far from bringing all American boys home and abandoning the Nguyen Van Thieu hireling administration to let the South Viet Nam people determine themselves their own destiny, is simply a vicious scheme to prolong, intensify and broaden the war, maintain US military occupation and implement US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

NIXON'S "Vietnamization" of the war has generated innumerable crimes, as new deadly engines have been used in increasing number. American Professor Westing denounced at the International Conference on "Medicine and the War in Indochina" the use by the Pentagon of 70-ton BLU-82/B super-bombs, 8.3 meter long and 1.37 meter in diameter, containing 5 kilograms of special explosive of the DBA-22M type capable of exterminating at one time everything living within a surface of 340 hectares. Other kinds of bombs and field mines have also been used in Viet Nam such as "button bombs" mingled amidst the foliage which cause slight wounds and hamper communication, "cluster-bombs" (WAAPM) which can devastate a whole area, or mines of the BLU-31 type released from the planes which drill holes in the ground and explode at the least percussion.

Also in the course of "Vietnamization," another sinister military "discovery" has been "electronic" or "blind war," as the US press calls it. With "electronic devices" Nixon wants to carry on the war without US infantry, thus avoiding opposition from the American people, because deadly engines and automatic weapons combined with these electronic devices do not bleed when wounded, do not die, do not question the officers, do not take to drugs, do not oppose, do not leak out military secrets in letters sent home, as Orvill Schell, Editor of Pacific News Service *put it in his article "Electronic Killing-The New War in Southeast Asia." Speaking of Nixon's "New War," Senator William Proxmire said that these lethal engines cannot differentiate the soldiers with women or children... There could be many cases in which a whole village would be completely wiped out by bombs and mines rained from the planes over a vast area to kill anybody loitering around it, he noted.*

However, the swelling of US air and naval forces in Southeast Asia together with the utilization of sophisticated lethal weapons exposes Nixon's deeper involvement in the Viet Nam war of aggression. A comparison shows that the devastation and the radius of action of those deadly engines blindly dropped from the air by modern planes with complicated equipment, surpass by far the damage caused by an American GI on the ground with an individual firearm.

Nixon's replacement of US infantry by air bombings has brought the violence of the war to an unprecedented height. The French journal Le Monde *reckons that during three years of office and "Vietnamization," the Nixon administration has been using some 7 million*

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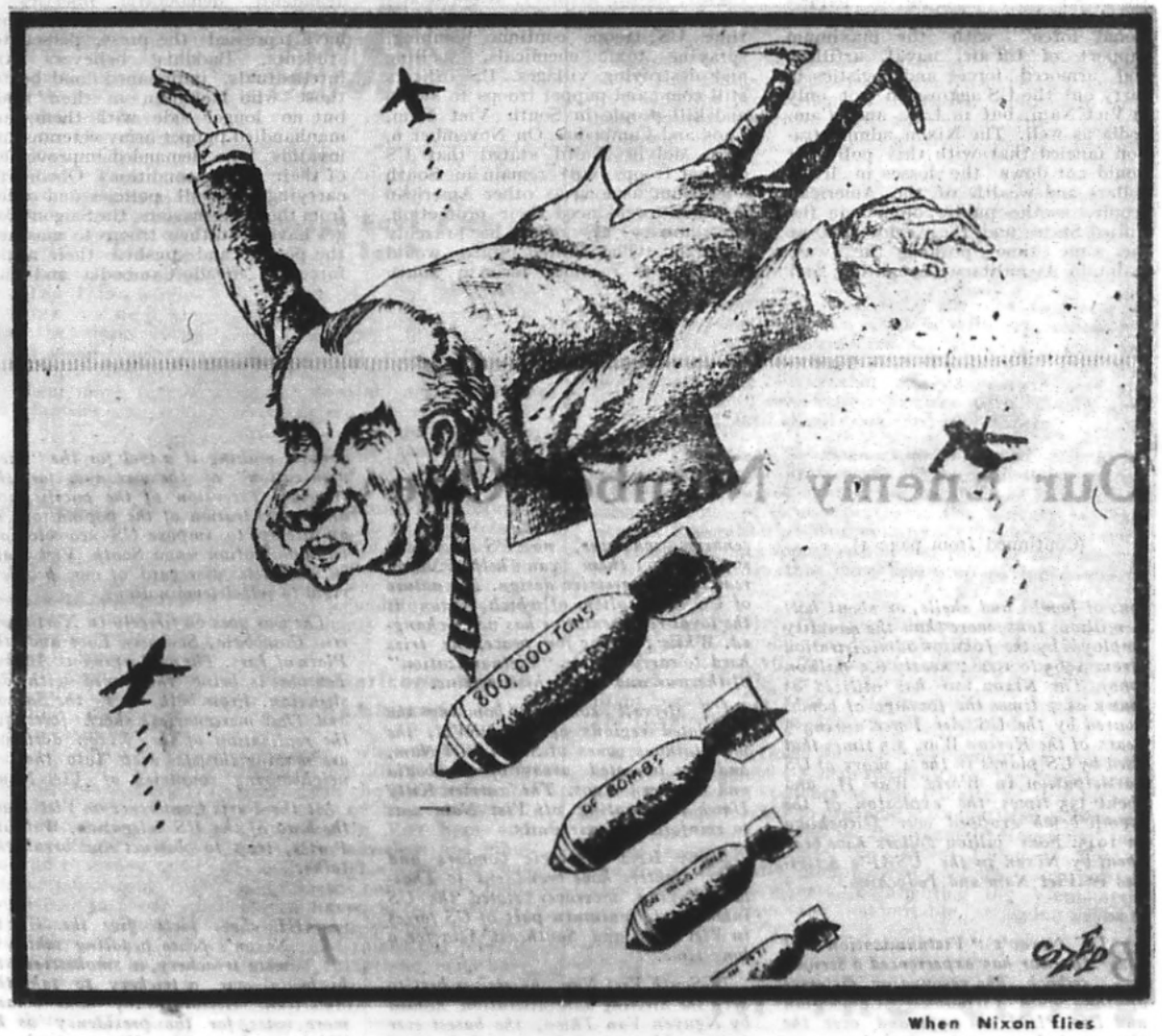

When Nixon flies
(from *The Militant*)

Nixon's "Vietnamization": a genocidal war crime

THE Committee for Denunciation of US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam published in February a *White Book* entitled: *The Truth on the US Policy of "Vietnamization" of the War.*

The *White Book* answers the question asked by people that cherish peace, freedom and justice: "What does the Nixon administration's policy of 'Vietnamization' of the war really mean, and where does it lead to?"

The document comprises 3 parts:

I – Content and nature of the policy of "Vietnamization" of the war;

II – "Vietnamization" of the war leads to escalation of crimes of which pacification is the main measure;

III – "Vietnamization" of the war, the biggest international crime.

In this issue, we carry excerpts from Part I:

I. – Content and nature of the policy of "Vietnamization" of the war.

During his presidential election campaign in 1968, Nixon solemnly promised the American people that he would end the war within 6 months if he were elected president. To realize his promise, he decided to choose the "Vietnamization" of the war to "get out of the war with honour" (Nixon's statement of November 3, 1969).

The reality in the past three years proves that "Vietnamization" means prolongation of the war to realize US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The perfidious measure to achieve that policy is to use Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese, withdraw part of the US troops and beef up the puppet army to be used as main operational force" with the maximum support of US air, naval, artillery and armored forces and logistics to carry out the US aggression not only in Viet Nam, but in Laos and Cambodia as well. The Nixon administration fancied that with this policy it would cut down the losses in lives, dollars and wealth of the American people, soothe public opinion in the United States and the world, and at the same time prolong the war, maintain its military occupation, and realize US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and in the whole Indochinese peninsula. With the "Vietnamization," the US aggression, instead of ending, is going on under better disguised forms, at a higher level and on a larger scale. In his February 25, 1971 statement, Nixon said: "This olicy meets our [US] objective of reducing the United States' involvement. It cannot end the war, save after a long period."

Nixon's "Vietnamization" plan is an all-round plan in military, political and economic fields...

Militarily, "Vietnamization" consists in gradually withdrawing US troops from South Viet Nam and strengthening the Saigon puppet army in every respect.

Though being forced to withdraw its troops, the Nixon administration has planned to retain big US "residual" force to permanently occupy South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. Nixon has been in the White House for more than three-fourths of his term now, but there remain nearly 200,000 US and satellite troops in Indochina. This effective is higher than that of 1965, the first year of the US local war of aggression under the Johnson administration, not counting US troops on the Seventh Fleet and at bases in Thailand, and directly serving the US aggressive war in Indochina. The US combat role has not ended as Nixon keeps claiming. US air, naval, artillery, armored and supply units remain for an indefinite time. US troops continue bombing, spraying toxic chemicals, shelling and destroying villages. US officers still command puppet troops to sweep and kill people in South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. On November 6, 1971 Melvin Laird stated that US combat troops will remain in South Viet Nam as long as other American military forces need their protection. On January 13, 1972, he brazenly declared: "The United States would maintain a residual force in South Viet Nam." The prolongation of US troops withdrawal and the scheme of maintaining a US force under the pretext of permanent occupation of South Viet Nam are aimed at gaining time to bolster the Saigon puppet army and use that US force as a prop for the puppet army, to maintain the rotten Saigon puppet administration so as to continue the war of aggression and realize US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

Politically, the "Vietnamization of the war" plan consists in maintaining and consolidating the Saigon puppet administration and a huge machine of oppression and coercion from central to grassroots levels as a tool to materialize US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. In the past years, the Nixon administration has stuck to the belicose and rotten Nguyen Van Thieu clique of henchmen despite the fact that they are deeply hated by the entire South Vietnamese people who are struggling to overthrow them. The Nixon administration has spared no efforts and money to prettify the puppet administration with a sham "national", "democratic" and "legal" face. Recently, the traitorous Saigon junta illegally and fraudulently organized the so-called "presidential election" with the governor general Bunker as stage manager.

In the past years, the Thieu junta have cracked down on all patriots and other people who advocated peace, neutrality, independence and demanded democratic liberties in the areas under their control. They have repressed the press, persecuted students, Buddhist believers and intellectuals, imprisoned and beaten those who had been in their ranks but no longer side with them, and manhandled puppet army veterans and invalids who demanded improvement of their living conditions. Obediently carrying out all policies and orders from their US masters, the Saigon stooges have sent their troops to massacre the people and pushed their armed forces to invade Cambodia and Laos and die in the place of US troops on those battlefields.

In the economic field of "Vietnamization," first of all, the US aggressors have sought to destroy the economy in the liberated areas. They have resorted to toxic chemicals, bombs, shells, armor and infantry to kill every buffalo and every pig, destroy every food plant from banana trees to cassavaroots, destroy farming implements and fill up all drinking wells. They have carried out fierce bombing and shelling in order to prevent the peasants from working their fields. All these acts are aimed at driving the people into starvation and forcing them to bow to the Saigon regime.

In sum, "Vietnamization" is not aimed to end the war in honour but to prolong, step up and expand it, and to commit more crimes against the Indochinese peoples. The US aggressors, with their "Vietnamization" policy, are turning South Viet Nam into a concentration camp, a huge barrack and a real hell-on-earth.

Though bearing the name "Vietnamization," the war in South Viet Nam is still a US war, carried out and directed by the US in the interests of US imperialism. The Nixon administration can only change the name but not the nature of the war: *that is a US neo-colonialist war of aggression in South Viet Nam.*

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tons of bombs and shells, or about half a million tons more than the quantity employed by the Johnson administration (from 1965 to 1968: nearly 6.5 million tons). The Nixon war has utilized as many as 7 times the tonnage of bombs poured by the US Air Force during 3 years of the Korean War, 3.5 times that used by US planes in the 4 years of US participation in World War II, and about 335 times the explosion of the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima in 1945. Four billion dollars have been spent by Nixon in the USAF's activities in Viet Nam and Indochina.

BUT Nixon's "Vietnamization" of the war has experienced a serious setback. The resounding victories of the South Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao PLAF in 1971 and over the the recent days are proof that no mercenaries whatever, no US increased support to them can help Nixon realize his aggressive design. The nature of US imperialism of which Nixon is the loyal representative has never changed. While praying for peace, he tries hard to carry out the "Vietnamization" of the war and apply his doctrine.

US aircraft continue bombing the populated regions of the DRVN, the mountainous zones of South Viet Nam, and the liberated areas of Cambodia and Southern Laos. The carrier Kitty Hawk is operating off Viet Nam seas to reinforce US air units.

Many B.52 strategic bombers and other fighters have been sent to Thailand. Nixon moreover stated the US intention to maintain part of US forces in Viet Nam and Southeast Asia for a long time.

In South Viet Nam he strives best to keep the hireling administration headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, the basest ever traitor abhorred at home and despised abroad, making it a tool for the "Vietnamization" of the war and for the criminal execution of the pacification and concentration of the population, in an attempt to impose US neo-colonialist domination upon South Viet Nam in complete disregard of our people's right to self-determination.

The war goes on fiercely in Northeastern Cambodia, Southern Laos and the Plain of Jars. The world-famous Angkor Temple is being threatened with destruction. From both sides, the Saigon and Thai mercenaries, shock forces for the realization of the Nixon doctrine, are making thrusts deep into the two neighbouring countries of Viet Nam.

At the Paris Conference on Viet Nam the head of the US delegation, William Porter, tries to obstruct and break the talks.

THE above facts give the lie to Nixon's peace peddling which is mere treachery, a smokescreen to his brutal war, a trickery to take the American electorate in, and obtain more votes for the presidency as he did in early 1968. Nixon speaks of peace, but makes war. His frantic diplomatic and military moves testify more obviously than never before to the aggressive and warlike nature of US imperialism. Before world opinion, they confirm this reality brought out by the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples: the US imperialists are the neo-fascists, the international gendarme, the most dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples.

But in the game, the Viet Nam card is rather hard to play with. In his first term, Nixon's predecessor lost it, returned to his Texas ranch to tend the cows.

If Nixon follows the same path, his plight will be pitiful. The thing is too clear.

The South Viet Nam people and their armed forces, just like their forefathers formerly, do know how to make their history glorious. Nixon must not forget it.

SOUTH VIET NAM

In the Saigon Press

Tet in the cities

The nearer the Tet, the deeper Thieu's poison of "autumn economic revolution" corroded the life of the South Vietnamese townsfolk, making it ever more destitute. This state of things was vividly depicted in the Saigon press of late January and early February 1972.

Kerbs for homes and culverts for beds

"Never has a Tet seen so many beggars and unattended invalids in the streets as this year. So many people have only kerbs for homes and culverts for beds" (*Tin Sang* of January 8, 1972). "While the poor in Hang Xanh quarter, Go Vap district, Gia Dinh province, were toiling and moiling all day long to cope with the 'autumn economic revolution', and for the coming Tet, orders came to evict them. So they have been now haunted with the 'prospect of becoming wanderers" (*Trang Den* (Black and White) January 27, 1972). "A big fire erupted at half past eleven on January 24, 1972 and lasted over 2 hours at Tran Hung Dao crossroads, Saigon, burning down over 250 houses and driving tens of thousands of people homeless. At present, hundreds of families have to camp in Tran Hung Dao, De Tham and Bui Vien streets" (*Saigon*).

Skyrocketing prices, slack business

"As an effective result of the 'autumn economic revolution' staple commodities' prices have been soaring on a sluggish market. Everybody is complaining of the high cost of living. The price of rice has gone up from 5,000 to 10,000 piastres a quintal (16,000 piastres for sticky rice). That of pork has considerably increased, so has that of vegetables and fruit. Within a week foodstuffs have risen from 30 to 40 per cent. At the confectioners', there are no customers. At the Ben Thanh market, eating stalls mushroom, selling soups, noodles and other delicacies, but business is slack" (*Chinh Luan*).

Businessmen return their licences and close down their firms

"South Viet Nam's economy (in the enemy-occupied zone—*Ed.*) is near breaking point. Trade is at its lower level while imported goods glut the market. People can only afford foods.

Saigon businessmen make no bones that home production is declining. Goods are brought within everybody's reach but find no customers.

Meanwhile, taxes are skyrocketing. A great amount of tax arrears for 1969 and 1970 has not been yet collected, but 1971 exorbitant taxes have already cut a big gap in the businessmen's income. Many of them have had to return their licences, close down their firms or face bankruptcy and penalties for tax evasion at that.

Saigon businessmen lament that despite their predicament, the [Thieu] administration remains tough with them. The state bank brings pressure to bear on private banks, thus driving industrialists and traders into an impasse" (*But Thep*, January 2, 1972).

Declining culture

"Thanks to the 'autumn economic revolution', our culture is declining. The lack of university professors is becoming serious for students: graduated abroad do not return home. Now that books fetch high prices, the students can just have enough money to buy such notorious pornographic books as 'The Girl of Do Long', 'The Adventures of Tieu Ngao'...

Like the higher cost of newsprint which has supplied newspapers' publishers with a cord to hang themselves, more expansive books will have the same effect on the students. Under French domination, the colonialists gave Vietnamese youths only enough education to serve them as interpreters. Today books are priced very high to turn the youths into servile politicians, prostitutes and clerks... The [Thieu] administration wants to keep the youths in the dark about economic and social revolution to forestall their opposition and rule them more easily" (*Hoa Binh* January 17, 1972).

Gangsters waving at policemen

"Gambling-houses mushroom on the kerbs in district Five, near Hong Bang high school, in Trieu Quang Phuc and Hung Vuong boulevards. The poor already 'groggy' with the 'autumn economic revolution' will while away their time gambling during the coming Tet... to meet a sure death.

With the approach of Tet, robbery occurs every hour, keeping the population in a state of constant fright. Gangsters are so bold that they wave their hands at policemen. The law is powerless. Just one in thousands of cases is brought to court. In others, the offenders go undisturbed, as most of them are sons, armed to the teeth, of the establishment's big shots" (*Tin Sang*).

Spring greeted with tears

"It's Tet time but business is slack! For the population have no money left to buy. Says an old Saigon functionary: 'Our salary can last only ten days. The Tet bonus is just like a drop in a bucket. At this festival, I'll have to eat only vegetables in my ancestors' memory...' Another civil servant sounds more mournful: 'We'll have to greet spring with tears'..."

"The plight of the population in Central Trung Bo recently stricken by floods and a cyclone has been worsened by the 'autumn revolution'. In Quang Tri, in nearly all families there are members turned beggars. In Hue, rice is only available on the black market at cut-throat prices. In the coastal area, hundreds of thousands live in utter destitution..." "Tens of thousands have to eat banana roots in place of rice. Many get beriberi or die of hunger and cold..." (*Chinh Luan, Con Ong, But Thep*).

Who can have a merry Tet?

"Since the day the administration took the economic and financial measures to 'relieve' the population, the latter have been reduced to a more squalid misery. They have known 'austerity shirts', 'parallel rate underwear' down to 'economic measure trousers'... They will perhaps have to wear loin-loths to keep pace with the 'autumn revolution'. They have no money left to spend for Tet. Only the few 'bigwigs' and 'wealthy' who thrive on war and racket can lavishly celebrate it" (*Cong Luan*, January 7, 1972).

The Americans are to be blamed

"Those who are to be blamed for all that are no other than the Americans, for they have of their own will intervened in Viet Nam and started a senseless and inhuman war. This very war has laid waste our native land, played havoc in our economy, reduced our people to utter misery and ruined our piastre. In brief, all these evils have been visited on us by the Americans" (*Tin Sang*, January 6, 1972).

in the cities

- The Executive Committee of the Saigon Federation of Maritime Workers, at a recent emergency meeting, made public an appeal calling on the seamen belonging to the Federation to stand ready for a general sympathy strike in support of the claim for a wagelift of the crewmen aboard the "Viet Nam Trade" ship. Following Thieu's "autumn economic measures," the above-said cargo ship has raised its freight charges to 250 per cent. The Federation demanded that the ship's owner increase the seamen's salary to meet the soaring cost of living.

- The Federation of Private Enterprise Workers in Saigon has issued a communique urging the enterprises' bosses to raise the workers' wages by 30 per cent as from January 1, 1972 and pay an extra month salary as Tet bonus. The communique stressed that at present the workers' wages cannot keep pace with the spiralling prices.

- Poor civil servants in Saigon have sent a petition demanding that the Thieu administration pay their February 1972 salary before the Tet festival. The petition made clear that as their earnings are not enough to maintain themselves, they do not know what to do about Tet shopping as the usurers refuse to lend them more money. The petition also denounced US-Thieu for not only leaving them in the lurch but also increasing taxes and exertions, which aggravates their plight.

- Students of the Can Tho-Van Hanh joint institute organized on the nights of January 15 and 16 performances of national dances and songs to initiate a movement of healthy way of living for the Can Tho students and raise funds for orphans on the occasion of the Tet. The shows were warmly acclaimed by over 1,000 spectators.

  Pupils of the Ngo Quyen Middle School in Bien Hoa also staged a similar benefit night with many special items voicing their love for the country and people and their opposition to aggression, for the cyclone and flood victims in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper).

- Many mothers and representatives of prisoners at Con Son (Poulo Condor) jail have sent a petition urging the Saigon Home Ministry to improve the prisoners' rations, stop terrorist, repressive or retaliatory measures against them, let their relatives visit or write them, especially at the approach of the Tet, and set free those whose prison term is over and the old people and children.

- People from various walks of life and MPs and people's deputies have energetically protested against Nguyen Van Thieu's spending 50 million piastres (Saigon currency) on the decoration of his "Independence Palace." The casting of a sculpture representing a "bumper crop" cost 18 million piastres and that of 9 dragoons 27 million piastres.

  Saigon "MPs and people's deputies" wryly commented: "The 'Bumper crop' commissioned by Thieu ironically recalls the predicament of the South Vietnamese who have to eat American rice and suffer from Thieu's economic measures such as 'austerity tax', 'parallel exchange market'..."

- The Saigon press opinion has been scoring the US-Thieu price rise of books and newspapers in an attempt to realizing their obscurantist plan. A French-Vietnamese dictionary now fetches 5,100 piastres instead of 1,500 previously, and an encyclopedia 100,000 as against 25,000.

- The Federation of Book and Newspaper Importer in Saigon has recently held a teach-in with representatives of students, pupils' parents and teachers, to prevail on Thieu to keep down the prices of imported books and newspapers. The Federation also suggested a single exchange rate of 200 Saigon piastres to a dollar, and the import of only useful books and newspapers.

- All the traders at 36 markets in Saigon city have come out strongly against the Thieu administration for allowing the market contractors to increase their commission from 40 to 100 per cent. On January 21, the General Federation of Workers and all the market vendors launched an appeal calling on their fellow dealers to resolutely resist this move and stop paying commission at Tet.

- In January 1972, the Thieu clique seized 159 dailies in Saigon, or a much greater number than even the last months of 1971. All the Saigon dailies were confiscated at least once in the period under review, with the opposition papers *Tin Sang* (Morning News) and *Dien Tin* (Express) having had 25 issues banned.

- Following actions for the development of national culture and against US depraved culture, the representative committee of students at the Faculty of Literature in Saigon has decided to organize a competition of poems, music and short stories on the theme "Hopes for the native land." Meanwhile, the General Union of Pupils and the Dance and Song Ensemble of Da Nang pupils also gave 2 performances, highlighting the Vietnamese people's patriotism and indomitable struggle against US aggression.

in the cities

The military situation in the first two months of 1972

SINCE the beginning of 1972, to face a worsening situation in South Viet Nam, the Pentagon has withdrawn Saigon expeditionary forces from Cambodia to strengthen the defence of the capital and key "pacification areas." The 5th and 8th Divisions had been standing guard at the gates of Saigon, the 22nd and 23rd Divisions have been deployed to protect the High Plateau, the 7th Division to defend the Mekong Delta, the American 196th Brigade to "pacify" the outskirts of Da Nang... The rural areas — particularly in Quang Tri province — had been savagely raided, the population penned up, B.52s intensively used on Tri-Thien and Tay Nguyen battlefields to forestall PLAF offensives.

Keeping the initiative, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces simultaneously attacked the three enemy strategic areas, and hit at the US-Saigon "pacification" plan.

In the **periphery of towns**, the PLAF struck air bases, divisional and regimental HQ's, and logistic bases. They inflicted heavy losses on nearly 30 positions, 23 of which were important bases and CP's (the network of bases along Highway 9, military ports in Cua Viet, Da Nang, Cam-Ranh, Quy Nhon, airstrips, heights...) 18 district capitals, a number of provincial capitals in the Mekong Delta.

Overrunning positions at Da Bac (Cam Ranh), Con Tien (North of Quang Tri province) and Tuy Hoa (Phu Yen province), the PLAF wrote off whole Saigon companies. On the night of January 9, they wreaked heavy losses on the CP and artillery emplacement of 2 battalions of the 32nd Regiment and the 21st Infantry Division, putting out of action 400 enemy troops (3 companies liquidated), in Ca Mau (Mekong Delta).

In the **countryside**, guerillas and regional troops encircled and forced hundreds of garrisons to withdraw, liquidated whole platoons of *dan ve* (civil guards) and *bao an* (militia), helping scores of thousands of people smash the coercive administrative machinery.

During the first twenty days of January, in Central Trung Bo, they knocked out or captured over 2,200 Saigon and satellite troops (including the commanding officers of 1 battalion, 1 company and nearly 30 platoons), shot down 15 aircraft, destroyed 40 military vehicles, 14 railway engines and carriages, burnt down 50 ammunition dumps and 12,000 litres of oil, razed to the ground 12 positions, 7 concentration areas, helped 1,200 people return to their villages. Guerillas and regional forces in the Mekong Delta put out of action scores of companies and platoons. From January 12 to 14, 5 Saigon companies in Soc Trang were heavily decimated. From January 5 to 15, 20 posts in Ben Tre province were abandoned. Guerilla warfare was intensively stepped up throughout Binh Dinh province. Two-thirds of Ba Ria province were controlled by the people's power.

In **mountain areas**, enemy "sweeps" on liberated areas were supported by planes. Guerillas and regional forces shot down many aircraft over the Tay Nguyen plateaux and Western Quang Tri; 5 US planes were grounded and a number of US pilots captured in the A So area; 4 planes of the 3rd Brigade (1st Cav.) were shot down at Dong Tre.

Important land and fluvial communication were continually attacked and cut off, military convoys destroyed, military vessels sunk in battles in Central Highland, Northern Quang Tri and the Mekong Delta.

The US-Saigon command was driven onto the defensive in the South Viet Nam theatre. Unable to recruit fresh troops to deal with guerilla warfare in the plain area, how can they carry out the "defence from afar" strategy in the border area!

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FROM February 8 to 10, the PLAF of *Quang Nam province* violently attacked a series of US puppet positions, inflicting them heavy losses. According to *GPA*, in Da Nang and its surroundings, liberation gunners and ground forces attacked Da Nang airbase, causing many big fires and explosions. Two jet fighter planes, 2 aircraft haulers, one storage and a large quantity of military equipment were destroyed. The airstrip was badly damaged and over 20 US flyers, technicians and officers were killed or wounded. At the same time, the PLAF also shelled a storage area in My Khe, the An Hoa artillery site and launched ground and artillery attacks on a battalion HQ of the US 196th Brigade in Hon Vang and puppet soldiers in Hoa Da, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy.

In *Quang Tri province*, on February 18 and 19, the liberation gunners repeatedly shelled enemy positions. They pounded Ai Tu base, the 3rd puppet Division CP, triggering 2 big fires that lasted one hour. The artillery men violently bombarded on La Vang, one of the biggest bases of the enemy in the area.

Guerillas and regional forces in *Phu Yen province* on February 8 and 9 made unremitting attacks on the enemy in Dong Binh, shelled the local military sector at Tuy An, Tuy Hoa 2 district towns and many other positions of the "civil guard" and "popular defence" in the area. They wiped out 120 enemy including 2 "civil guard" platoons and 3 "popular defence" squads, wrecked 5 military vehicles, overturned one military train and shot down 2 aircraft.

The liberation gound and artillery forces in *Khanh Hoa province* on February 7 frequently attacked encampments of a puppet engineering battalion, 5kms Northeast of Nha Trang, and Trang Bang base.

The PLAF in *Can Tho province* on February 2 fired big gun shells at the HQs and an artillery site of the 15th Regiment, 9th Division of the puppet army in Long My district, inflicting 140 casualties including 2 American "advisers" and 2 puppet officers.

The regional forces in Go Quao district, *Rach Gia province*, in an ambush on February 6, badly mauled the 959th "civil guard" company, killing more than 50 men. They also intercepted a battalion lifted to the area to relieve the battered company, wiping out of action 40 more enemy soldiers and seizing a large quantity of weapons and military equipment.

On the night of February 20 and the next day, the PLAF launched a spate of artillery and ground attacks on US and puppet troops bases and positions almost across South Viet Nam.

According to *Western* reports, the Bien Hoa and Phan Rang airbases and the Phu Loi heli-airport of the US and a series of Saigon army bases including the HQs of Kontum, Binh Dinh and Binh Tuy military sectors and the Tan Uyen, Ben Luc sub-sectors came under violent attacks. On February 21, *UPI* reported, there were at least "50 attacks across South Viet Nam." *AP* said that on February 19 and 20, the liberation fighters mounted 65 attacks. The Saigon puppet army suffered "the highest loss for several months," *AFP* reported.

US-puppets' violations of RSVN PRG ceasefire order

ACCORDING to incomplete statistics released by *GPA*, from 0.00 hour February 14 to 00.00 hour February 18, the US-Thieu junta committed nearly 200 violations of the RSVN PRG's truce order on the occasion of the Lunar New Year Festival. They killed and wounded many persons and looted a large amount of the people's property.

In Rach Gia province, during February 14, 15, and 16 the 2 battalions of the 15th Regiment, puppet 9th Division, and 2 "civil guard" companies conducted a large-scale operation in Vinh Hoa village (Vinh Thuan district) and Dong Yen village (An Bien district) to terrorize and loot the people.

The US-Thieu clique in the last two days of the Tan Hoi year sent 30 jet fighters, 18 OV.10 reconnaissance planes and 6 armed helicopters to spray bullets and drop over 100 tons of bombs.

In My Tho province, throughout the last day of the Tan Hoi year, dozens of armed helicopters and C.47 jet-fighters came from the Binh Duc airfield to bomb many places and airlift raiders. As a result, many houses and orchards in Binh Trung village, Chau Thanh district, were razed or damaged.

3 battalions of the 10th Regiment, puppet 7th Division, in Ben Tre province on the same day opened a "sweep" operation in Chau Binh, Long My, Luong Hoa and Luong Phu villages, Giong Trom district, and many other villages north of Mo Cay and Chau Thanh districts, where they seized a lot of property from the people.

In Central Trung Bo, hundreds of "sweep operations" were conducted in "strategic hamlets" and other densely populated areas in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces.

Besides, US B.52 strategic bombers wantonly bombed many heavily populated areas in Northern Quang Tri and in the High Plateaux, causing heavy losses to the people.

17 US aircraft downed in 23 days: outstanding exploit of a Tri-Thien-Hue flak team

GROWING UP WITH spring

EVERY year, the founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces—Feb. 15—falls on mid-Spring, and this year, on the traditional Têt, a time when the widespread offensives and uprisings, started at the Tet of Mau Than year, have been gaining momentum. This date reminds us of those Spring days when the "Dong khoi" (Concerted Uprisings) movement was initiated and the glorious PLAF were born. Our people have continually been on the offensive ever since and our armed forces have been marching forward.

We, officers and men of our unit, are sharing, with all the comrades fighting in South Viet Nam, the privilege of living the most exalting days of our national history. Under the clearsighted leadership of the NFL Central Committee, the RSVN PRG and the PLAF Command, and strong with the support of our fellow countrymen from all walks of life, our armed forces are growing with, and at the same pace as, Spring.

The memory of early days full of hardships throws more light on the giant strides made by our three kinds of troops which have been progressing by leaps and bounds. We, officers and men who are following closely the situation in various battlefields, can learn from each friendly unit valuable lessons of combativeness, perseverance in combat, and dexterity in the application of ever more sophisticated tactics so as to attain increasingly high efficiency in the fighting, which is indeed a source of pride for all.

What comforts us most is the long list of exploits and of outstanding fighters in the course of our continual offensives. In Spring 1968 we were greatly encouraged by the example set by Bui Ngoc Duong on the Khe Sanh front. In this year's Spring we are roused by Le Ma Luong, the fighter motivated by a lofty ideal and credited with uncommon achievements and high combativeness.

The feats described to us at the all-South Viet Nam Congress of Emulation Fighters and Heroes are no longer isolated cases. If formerly we had only one Nguyen Van The who, despite his sore feet, waded through marshes and distinguished himself by destroying many Yanks, or only one Pham Ngoc Ha who perseveringly stuck to a swampy area of the "belt" region and succeeded in defeating a big force of the enemy, we can at present boast thousands of Nguyen Van Thes and Pham Ngoc Has. Likewise, in the Saigon streets in effervescence there have appeared thousands of Nguyen Van Tangs and Banh Van Trans and so many other fighters of both sexes, all indomitable, valiant and resourceful, all sprung from the toiling people and roused into action, right in the enemy sanctuary. It is no longer rare to see tanks destroyed or aircraft downed, such achievements have become daily occurrences in South Viet Nam.

In their impetuous advance, the PLAF men, led by sagacious leaders, are continually surpassing themselves, setting new records and developing new initiatives. What is most inspiring is the unprecedentedly rapid growth of our people and fighters who have brought into full play our tradition of undauntedness and made good use of the precious experience of other patriots. Many a PLAF new recruit has earned fame right in his very first engagement.

The forthcoming Spring will offer everyone an opportunity to accomplish new feats of arms. Spring will be rich in acts of revolutionary heroism. We, officers and men of a unit with a tradition of "unity, modesty and victory," are celebrating the founding anniversary of the PLAF and with boundless zeal, are making all-out efforts to fulfil the task assigned us new Spring.

As Spring comes, let each one of us fighters bear in mind that our Fatherland is experiencing its most trying hours and indeed its most momentous ones. More than ever, on the front as in the rear, sacrifices, unconditional sacrifices, are required to defeat as soon as possible the most savage enemy of mankind and bring to fruition the greatest resistance of our national history.

For the sake of independence and freedom and a bright future for our entire nation, to discharge our sacred responsibility before history, let all of us be ready!

TA QUANG TY
PLAF Hero

Saigon public opinion scores Nixon's 8 points

NO sooner had Nixon put forward his eight-point proposal on the Viet Nam question than Saigon public opinion, in particular the press, exposed the move.

Papers appearing on Jan. 27, 1972 carried editorials describing it as a Nixon's "electoral manoeuvre". *Chinh Luan* (Righteous Opinion), usually considered a pro-Thieu organ, wrote: "This is a tactical move, a trick of the US government." *Tin Sang* (Morning News) remarked: "This 'peace bomb' released by Nixon is aimed at placating US public opinion and countering the vigorous offensive mounted by his electoral opponents from the Democratic Party and coping with the fast deteriorating situation in Indochina." Opposition members of the Senate and the Lower House in Saigon saw in Nixon's proposal "brazen challenge to the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination." A "deputy" had this to say: "What the 8 points show is Nixon's intention to turn South Viet Nam into a concession of the US armed forces." Other observers said Nixon's proposal was in fact a "ploy to lay the blame on the communists for any of their offensives."

On US troop withdrawal, *Tin Sang* wrote: "It seems at first that Nixon was conciliatory and reasonable, but a closer scrutiny leaves nobody in doubt, and one could realize, through Nixon's statement, that he was bent upon deceiving public opinion once again. Why did he flatly turn down the other side's demand for a deadline for troop withdrawal? For months the PRG's seven points had been left unanswered. No wonder then that President Nixon has resorted to so many political ploys during his electoral campaign to make believe that the Indochina war was about to stop..."

"Troop withdrawal does not mean an end to the war and to intervention," *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) commented. "This is only a way to appease public opinion in the US and to silence the opposition, since the American people would be less concerned over a war in which US involvement would take the form of aid only in dollars and weapons, not in troops, which would generate sentimental complications."

Exposing the real purport of Nixon's new proposal concerning South Viet Nam elections, *Tin Sang* wrote on Jan. 30-31: "Mr Nixon's proposal aims at maintaining the present regime which would certainly be a decisive factor influencing the elections. The present constitution would still be valid. That is a point on which the majority of the people in South Viet Nam do not agree; because both regime and Constitution were created by the US and its henchmen for a South Viet Nam totally dependent upon the US. To keep the present regime and Constitution is tantamount to granting a legal status to the Saigon administration, whereas everybody has become fed up with US-manipulated election and the US-backed governmental apparatus. New elections are proposed by Mr Nixon, but one may ask: "What can the feeble 'Electoral Committee' do in face of the frauds committed by the pro-US administration and the powerful US itself which is behind that administration?"

But Thep (Steel Pen) on Jan. 27 laid bare the traitorous nature of Nguyen Van Thieu who, in his Jan. 26 speech, only reiterated the same tune as Nixon's. "Thieu wants to tie up the fate of South Viet Nam to President Nixon's seat," the paper wrote. *Duoc Nha Nam* (The Viet Nam Torch) said: "The proposed resignation of President Thieu and Vice-President Huong is but an awkward tactical move of the US." *Dien Tin* (The Telegraph) commented: "The solution proposed by Mr Thieu is no answer to the requirements of the Vietnamese nation, it only serves President Nixon's purposes. Everything put forward by Mr Thieu has already been said by the US. Mr Thieu has promised to withdraw. Although this is only a manoeuvre, his promise reveals him as an obstacle to peace. Mr Thieu cannot have a platform and a political line of his own. Everything has been announced by the US for him. His platform is to tail after the US."

Dealing again with Thieu's offer to resign in accordance with US plans, *Tin Sang* on Jan. 29 said: "The solution advanced by Thieu contains nothing new, moreover it is full of contradictions and aimed only at prolonging the war while at the same time ensuring success for Nixon in the November 1972 elections. That Thieu has been compelled to offer his resignation is in itself a smarting blow at the very foundation of his own regime. It shows how weak this regime is and its lack of any legal basis. So long as it is in office, the war will continue.

Thieu's offer to retire is enough to make everyone realize the futility of the efforts made by the US and Thieu to save the Saigon regime. For the other side to stop the war Thieu now has to promise to quit. Why didn't he do it earlier? Now that he has done it, his stay in office has only a temporary character, it is without any value and is not worth continuing."

Reaffirming the inevitability of the US-Thieu final defeat and the clear-cut position of the South Vietnamese townsfolk regarding a South Viet Nam settlement, *Tin Sang* stressed, "Although US intervention has not been totally terminated, US defeat has now become a certainty, since all US policies, however well camouflaged they may be, are unable to conceal its true nature, and the entire Vietnamese people can see for themselves its deceptiveness." *Dan Chu Moi* wrote on Feb 1: "The South Vietnamese people's legitimate aspirations are freedom, democracy, national independence, peace for everyone and oppression for none. They can tell a good cause from a bad one. Facts are not so attractive and optimistic as the US rulers want them to be. The South Vietnamese people will not look on with folded arms, they are ready to take an active part in the struggle ahead."

A new feat of arms in North Viet Nam

IN two consecutive days, February 16 and 17, seven US planes were shot down and several US pilots captured or wiped out by the population and army of Quang Binh and Vinh Linh Southern provinces of North Viet Nam. This new feat of arms was proof that while enjoying the Tet Lunar New Year Festival, our northern brothers remained vigilant, ready as they were to fight back the US air maraunders, and recorded brilliant success which was also a sharp answer to US new military adventures.

Increased air attacks by the US on both zones of Viet Nam together with its unilateral and indefinite postponement of the 143rd session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, laid bare the White House's bellicosity and phoney "peace." But intensified air strikes and continued aggression only invite still heavier failures upon the Nixon administration.

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces in concert with their heroic brothers in the North stand ready to deal telling return-blows at each adventurous military move of the US in either zone of our homeland. We are resolved to make the US bandits pay a costly price for each of their crimes in North Viet Nam.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

Sky and sea's beauty duly guarded

• Ton Duc Thang, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, visited Phu Linh village (Vinh Phu province), planted trees to launch the "Tree-Planting 1972 Tet in memory of Uncle Ho's drive.

He extended his new year's wishes to the old, the young, the children and all the other inhabitants of the village.

• Carrying out the order of the High Command of the Viet Nam People's Army, the population of North Viet Nam—in towns as well as in rural and mountain areas—have been strengthening regional forces with a great sense of urgency to be ready to face the enemy.

• In the Viet Bac Autonomous Region, many minority folksongs and folk-tales have been collected including the Bai Then in Bac Can, Luon Coi and tales of the Tay, tales, riddle verses, love songs of the Sang Diu, songs, proverbs, riddles and tales of the Dao and the Meo.

• The Viet Nam—GDR Friendship Hospital has completed a number of researches on the liver and gall bladder, much appreciated by the World Medical Association. It has successfully applied many modern therapeutic methods.

• The Institute of Weights and Measures (of the State Committee of Science and Technology) has fixed 586 accurate norms and tools for volumes, length, electricity, frequency, time, pressure and temperature.

• The Chemistry Institute has completed researches on a number of such chemicals used in agriculture as Dina (for the treatment of seeds), Bekaphos... (against pests, rats, for preserving food...), Ména (against yellow flies destroying oranges).

• The Library of Social Sciences (of the Committee of Social Sciences) has completed the first bibliography on the "Leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party in Literature."

• President Ton Duc Thang paid on February 15, 1972 a New Year visit to the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN.

The President was warmly welcomed by Nguyen Phu Soai, acting head, members, and all officials and employees, of the Representation.

After enquiring into their health and work and extending them New Year greetings, the DRVN President conveyed through the Representation best wishes for stronger solidarity and fresh success to the members of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the RSVN PRG and the South Vietnamese people, fighters and children.

• In the early Spring days of 1972, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee and Political Bureau member of the VNWP, Premier Pham Van Dong, Political Bureau member of the VNWP and other Party and State leaders visited several provinces, a number of public organs and enterprises in Hanoi and people, armymen and families with distinguished services to the Revolution.

• Le Duan, First Secretary, and Le Duc Tho, Political Bureau member, of the VNWP Central Committee, have recently had a cordial talk with a number of retired officials and cadres.

After recalling the most exciting memories they had shared with their comrades-in-arms who had long served the Revolution and people, the two Party leaders encouraged them to develop the old cadres' splendid tradition, continue their association with the Revolution and help educate the younger generation.

Cambodia

Series of CPNLAF Successful Attacks

IN January, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces continued to attack the remnants of adverse forces engaged in Operation "Tchenla 2" who had retreated to Kompong Thom province and its surroundings, inflicting on them hundreds of casualties and overrunning several positions.

On Highway 7, as a result of CPNLAF strong pressure, the Saigon troops had to withdraw from a 12 mile long defence line from Strung to Ampuk. Abandoned by their Saigon undermasters and chiefly demoralized by heavy reverses on all the battlefields, the Phnom Penh soldiers stationed in that region hurriedly withdrew into South Viet Nam.

Numerous adverse positions around Phnom Penh, especially in the Vihear Sour region on Highway 4 (Pich Nil Pass) and the neighbouring areas of Siem Reap, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, Kampot, Takeo... came under CPNLAF repeated attacks. In addition, all the enemy rice-looting raids were foiled and their communication lines cut off.

The Phnom Penh mercenary army, whose morale had been greatly impaired by successive setbacks, was disbanding by large segments. An increasing number of its troops left their ranks for home or joined the National United Front of Kampuchea to take part in the people's patriotic war of resistance. Such a situation created innumerable difficulties to the adverse military and economic plans and further aggravated their inner differences.

To help the Phnom Penh clique of traitors out of this quagmire, the Pentagon on the one hand intensified its military and economic aid and sent more American military advisers and personnel to Cambodia, and on the other ordered its Asian satellites such as Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, the Philippines, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Viet Nam and Japan to supply them arms and aircraft and help train their officers and men. The agreement on "border defence" reached last January 19 between the Phnom Penh traitors and the Thai reactionaries was part of the US war policy under the "Nixon doctrine" designed to change the colour of the corpses and to pit Asians against Asians.

The lightning inspection tour of Phnom Penh by W. Westmoreland on January 28 was made while the Cambodian quislings were in dire distress as a result of series of setbacks, an acute crisis and insurmountable difficulties.

Laos

GREAT EXPLOITS OF THE PLA IN JANUARY

THE Lao people and patriotic forces last January put out of combat nearly **2,400** enemy troops including many Thai mercenaries and US "advisers," according to *KPL* and to still incomplete statistics? They shot down **18** US war planes, and seized or wrecked **18** military vehicles and a large quantity of other war means, and recovered a large region in the North and the Boloven Plateaux in the South.

In *Northern Laos*, the LPLA overran Sam Thong-Long Cheng, the main lair of the Vang Pao "Special Forces," killing, wounding or capturing **1,400** enemy, bringing down **13** US war planes, and seizing or wrecking a large amount of other military equipment.

Together with the overrunning of Sam Thong-Long Cheng, the LPLA unremittingly attacked the enemy at Muong Mok and Phukoum and along Highway 13, overrunning or causing great damage to most of the enemy positions around Salaphoukhoun, and destroying Muong Kassy and positions around Vang Vieng. They knocked down nearly 500 enemy, and seized or destroyed hundreds of fire-arms including **13** heavy cannons, **5** military vehicles and shot down **2** aircraft. The Lao patriots recaptured a large area of heavy population along Highways 7 and 13.

In *the Southern part of the country*, after recapturing the Saravane provincial capital and Paksong township, the Lao people and armed forces in the Boloven Plateaux overran the Ban Nhik position, killing, wounding or capturing more than **400** enemy, bringing down 3 US war planes, and seizing over 100 fire-arms. The Vientiane puppet 42nd Mobile Brigade (GM) was heavily trounced. Intercepting enemy counter-attacks West of Ban Nhik and along Highways 9 and 23 they inflicted heavy casualties.

In close co-ordination with the main forces, the Lao regional forces and guerillas in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Luong Nam Tha, Udomsay, Sayaboury and Kham Muon stepped up their attacks on bandits and spies, knocking down hundreds of enemy troops.

DOES NIXON WANT TO RUN HIS HEAD AGAINST A WALL?

BY pressuring the French government into forbidding the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina to meet in Versailles, Washington has in fact aroused universal derision more than anger. Does it believe that such a move would silence world criticisms of US criminal aggression in Indochina?

Should the US rulers still have a shred of common sense, they would understand that nowadays no force can hush the voice of peace-, freedom- and justice - loving people. It's the case of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos where the chieftain of imperialism arrogates to himself the right to thwart their aspirations to peace and independence and force them to bow to *Pax Americana*. Prolonging and expanding their aggressive war in Indochina, the Yankee imperialists cannot but provoke the wrath of millions upon millions of honest people across the world. They themselves rather than anyone else are making the defence, support and assistance to the Vietnamese and Indochinese patriots an international duty for all peoples regardless of colours of skin, language and political system.

IN his official visit to the DRVN early in October 1971, Mr Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR stated: "Those who uphold the ideal of liberty and independence, peace and social progress, identify themselves with the cause of Viet Nam, with the cause of the Indochinese peoples. Championing resolutely and unconditionally the cause of the Vietnamese people is the direct international obligation of all revolutionary forces at the present times." Premier Chou En-lai emphatically declared in Peking on Nov. 23, 1971: "We are resolved to fulfill our international obligations, to concentrate all our forces on helping the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation of the peoples of Viet Nam and the Indochinese countries. Not to do so is to betray internationalism."

All the other socialist countries, on many occasions and through the words of their leaders, declared that supporting and aiding the sacred fight of the Vietnamese and the other Indochinese peoples against the American aggressors constitute one of their first international obligations.

The US imperialists are perfectly aware that those are not mere words. What is to be stressed and repeated is that the tremendous and effective aid of the governments and peoples of the socialist countries keep mounting at the same pace as US war escalation.

FOR the peoples of nationalist states confronting the old and new forms of domination of Yankee imperialism, the protracted and heroic resistance of the peoples of Indochina is not only a good quarrel but a source of powerful inspiration for their own fight. Dr Allende, the respected leader of the Chilean people, had these heartening words to say: "Nobody could remain indifferent to the historical significance of the Vietnamese people's revolutionary heroism. More particularly, the younger generation and the students will remember this war as an admirable battle waged by a united people who are getting the better of the forces of those who have lost all moral sense."

As victims of, and fighters against, imperialistic forces headed by the US, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America have for long deeply realized that the liberation struggle of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia is also their own, and that the triumph of this historic resistance will deal a deadly blow at their main enemy — American imperialism. To them, solidarity with Viet Nam constitutes not just an expression of the attachment to independence and liberty of those who have experienced oppression, but a vivid illustration of comradeship-in-arms. On Nov. 30, 1971, President H. Boumedienne made this comforting statement: "Animated by the same feating and will power, Algeria has always been unconditionally backing the Vietnamese people who are demonstrating every day and in the most eloquent fashion the belief of man in his noble ideal against the forces of crime."

The Third-World countries have always entertained deep sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of our people. An expression of this sympathy was the Sept. 1971 declaration of the meeting of Non-Aligned Countries' Foreign Ministers attending the 26th United Nations General Assembly. Regarding Indochina, it said: "The most recent developments of the war in Indochina, and especially the 7-point solution of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, have confirmed the position endorsed in Lusaka and made it possible to bring about a fair settlement of this war, and to guarantee the rights of the Indochinese countries, i.e. peace, national independence, territorial integrity and free development."

Never have very varied segments of opinion in the "free world" achieved identity of views so easily as on the Vietnamese issue. On which side to stand on the Indochina war issue has for long been no problem for the common people in all countries. The truth is apparent: "The United States has challenged the elementary norms of international law, and has especially violated the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Indochina and of 1962 on Laos, the Nuremberg principles, the Declaration on Human Rights, the Hague and Geneva Conventions, even the United Nations Charter, in the course of its aggression war in Viet Nam and Indochina" (Declaration of the Second International Lawyers' Conference on Indochina held in Algiers on Nov. 26-28, 1971).

Lately, over 700 MPs and political figures of Great Britain, India, Canada, Australia, Italy, Finland, Malta, Colombia and Jamaica signed their names under a resolution castigating the US aggressive war.

It called for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from the Indochinese countries so that the peoples of these countries can settle themselves their own affairs.

In the very lands where the rulers take a dirty part in the aggressive undertaking of the US, or are tied to Washington by military pacts, one also witnesses rapid advances of popular drives against the US, for Viet Nam.

The head of an American state said: "The Vietnamese are precisely those who must be praised for having struck very hard blows at the arrogance, the concept of invincibility and unquestioned authority, the notion of being master of the world of US imperialism. The effort of the Vietnamese people has made an extremely great contribution to the awakening of the American people." To everyone's knowledge, at present millions of Americans have come out unequivocally against the unjust, immoral and inhuman war that their government has been pursuing in Viet Nam and Indochina. Most significantly, the ranks of anti-war demonstrators have been swollen with increasing numbers of GIs on active duty, Viet Nam veterans and even members of captured militarymen's families.

Nixon, on the other hand, is seeking to silence his protesters around the world. He wants to prevent millions and millions of socialists from speaking the language of proletarian internationalism, and those who are fighting to achieve or defend their national independence from displaying their militant solidarity. He dreads to hear the outcries of the world's peoples and of his own countrymen. One may ask: "Does Nixon want to run his head against a wall?"

VAN DUC

in brief ★ in brief

o At a recent reception in honour of the visiting Republic of Iraq Party and Government Delegation, A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, reiterated the Soviet Union's "resolute and continued support for the Indochinese peoples' legitimate struggle against US aggression." He pointed out that "in the present conditions, US aggressive policy under whatever camouflage cannot stave off its failure. This is becoming a fact in Indochina... All US schemes to bend the Indochinese peoples to its will will never be realized."

o In response to the appeal of 48 French political, trade union and social organizations, over 30,000 people in Paris held on February 13 a parade from "Republique" Square to "Bastille" Square. Taking part in the demonstration were leaders of the said organizations and all the Presidium members and members of several international delegations attending the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina.

The demonstrators carried Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian flags, and shouted slogans protesting US aggression and voicing solidarity with, and support for, the Indochinese peoples.

Similar actions were staged in different places of France, such as Marseilles, Lyon, Saint Quentin, Montpellier, Evreux, Rouen, Chambéry, Clermont Ferrand, Nevers, Grenoble, Saint Etienne, Valence...

o At a mass meetnig in Stockholm on February 13 sponsored by 8 Swedish political organizations, a resolution was adopted demanding that the US fix a clearcut time-limit for troop withdrawal and terminate all backing for the Nguyen Van Thieu administration.

o On February 16,7 crew members including 6 US marines aboard the "Kitty Hawk" aircraft carrier left the vessel a few hours before its return to the Viet Nam aggressive war.

Two of the deserters, Todd Pisarek and Pay Hawkins, denounced US authorities' obdurate continuation of the bloody war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina.

o The February 4, 1972 GDR-Hungary communiqué strongly condemned the US government for dragging out the war by means of "Vietnamization" in a search for a way-out of the present crisis in Viet Nam, Indochina and the world over.

o The February 5, 1972 joint communiqué between the Bulgarian People's Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic voiced the two governments and peoples' solidarity with, and full support for, the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian resistances against US aggression and condemned the US "Vietnamization" of the war in Indochina.

Earlier, at a mass meeting on February 1 to welcome the Party and Government Delegation of the Bulgarian People's Republic, Predident H. El Assas of the Syrian Arab Republic, said: "Prompted by the viewpoint that the cause of freedom is the common cause of all the peoples in the world, the Syrian people and government will resolutely support the anti-US and national salvation struggle of the three Indochinese peoples.

o Delegates of the Japanese peace movement recently met in Kobe to review its past activities and consider measures to win the Japanese people's active participation in the contribution to the 7th shipload for Viet Nam.

o Students of Cornell University in Ithaka City (US) held on February 7 a demonstration against the Nixon administration's obdurate pursuing of the costly aggressive war in Viet Nam.

The marchers demanded that the University Board oust the representatives of Honwell Company, a big enterprise specialized in the manufacture of war equipment for the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE and INDEPENDENCE IN INDOCHINA

THE World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina was held at Versailles Palace from February 11 to 13, 1972, reports from Paris said. Attending the gathering were 1,200 representatives of various social sections from 84 countries, including the RSVN delegation led by Dang Quang Minh, member of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee.

In his introductory speech on February 11, André Souquières, on behalf of 48 French national organizations, warmly welcomed the participants and bared the US imperialists' over 30-year-old intervention in Indochina. He called on the delegates to militate vigorously for an end to US brutal aggression against this peninsula.

Then, Bertil Svahnstrom, Chairman of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, delivered an inaugural speech, denouncing the Nixon administration's manoeuvres to prevent the assembly from meeting in Paris, and calling on it to make all-out efforts to help the Indochinese peoples win victory in their battle for independence, freedom and peace. Haven't they been fighting and enduring sacrifices not only for themselves but also for the freedom and future of the world's peoples?

The addresses made by the four delegations of the 3 Indochinese peoples were warmly acclaimed by the assembly. The US delegation, besides its speech, also issued a strong protest against the arrogant attitude of Porter, US head delegate to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, who had vilified the US delegation to the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina and asserted that the latter assembly would harm the Paris talks.

At the same assembly, a resolution was unanimously passed and later handed to the US Embassy in Paris against the US attempt to scuttle the peace talks by deliberately staying away from a regular session on February 17 of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. The resolution pointed out that in the past 4 years, the US had shirked all meaningful negotiations at the Paris Conference, and affirmed that Ambassador Porter's activities and the US delegation's attitude at the talks were not consistent with the latter's professed aim to reach a peaceful solution to the Indochina issue.

After 4 days of hectic work in various committees, the assembly held on February 13 a plenary session to hear their reports. That of "The New Facets of the War" Committee said that under the "Vietnamization" signboard, the Nixon administration had been really applying a new tactics designed to prolong and expand the war. This new tactics assumed such characteristics as the ever more "automated" war with bigger US use of arms whose main effect is to kill human beings... The commitment of more US aircraft-carriers and B-52 planes to Indochina further proves that Nixon is intensifying such an "automated" war. Another characteristic of the war is that the US is trying to hide facts from, and deceive, public opinion on its criminal acts and at the same time spread the false belief that it has been withdrawing part of American strength in a "de-escalation" move. The present US war in Indochina is an all-out genocidal war which has been seeking to wipe out all living beings and means. With this illegal war whose aim is to defend its neo-colonialist interests, the US has been brutally challenging the Indochinese peoples' fundamental national rights.

The report of the Economic Committee made clear that one of the purposes of the US intervention and aggression in the Indochinese countries is to penetrate and disrupt the economies of the said countries. A new US plan is to intensify the tapping of national resources and exploitation of cheap manpower in the Indochinese countries, especially the people of various sections herded by the US and its clients into concentration camps. The Indochinese peoples' valiant and persistent struggles have plunged the US economy into a sharp crisis. The American people have had to bear since 1965 the burden of the US Indochina war amounting to over 140 billion dollars. The US war has had

an extremely serious effect on the Indochinese countries' economies. Under the US-Saigon regime, the South Viet Nam economy has become fully dependent on the US. The US war has also heavily devastated the natural resources of the three countries. Speaking only of the US toxic chemicals' effect, 12 per cent of the South Viet Nam territory have been laid waste.

The report of the Action Committee noted that the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina constituted in itself an international action of very great importance against US aggression in Indochina. However, to show active solidarity with the Indochinese peoples always remains a regular and permanent task of the peoples throughout the world.

In 1972, the American people's movement against the US aggressive war in Indochina and the movement for moral and material support for the Indochinese peoples in other countries will launch a wave of widespread actions beginning next April and lasting 6 weeks.

After the aforesaid committees' reports, the assembly heard the Political Committee reporting on its work and approved without a dissentient voice a general resolution analysing and strongly criticizing the "8-point peace plan" put forward by Nixon on January 25, 1972. The resolution stressed that the Viet Nam issue must be solved on the basis of the RSVN PRG 7-point proposal, the two key points of which were again clarified on February 2, 1972, that the Laos problem must be resolved on the basis of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committe March 6, 1970 5-point Statement amended by the April 27 and June 22, 1971 proposals and that the Cambodia conflict must be settled on the basis of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's March 23, 1970 5-point Statement and of the National United Front of Kampuchea's political program. The assembly also endorsed an appeal demanding that the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples be allowed to live in peace, independence and freedom, that the US fix a clear-cut deadline for the prompt and total withdrawal of the US armed forces from Indochina, end its air war and other military actions against the Indochinese peoples and cease all support for the US-installed administrations so that the Indochinese peoples can decide their own destiny themselves without foreign interference.

50,000 Frenchmen demonstrating their support to the Indochinese peoples' struggle

APPEAL OF PARIS WORLD ASSEMBLY ON INDOCHINA

ALL the nations of the world have an inalienable right, the right to peace. This applies to the peoples of Indochina also.

And yet, for over a quarter-century, they have been forced to take up arms in defence of their lives and their dignity, their independence and their freedom.

The government of the United States has decided, as part of its world strategy, to dominate this part of the world.

Confronted with the determined resistance of the peoples of Indochina, and the pressure of public opinion the world over, including the United States, President Nixon is forced to withdraw some United States ground troops from South Viet Nam, and to talk of peace.

This does not mean that he has given up the pursuit of the war. On the contrary, the war is intensified through more bombings and with the utilization of more deadly weapons for a more systematic destruction of human life.

Indochina has become a testing ground for these sophisticated weapons of which no one can say, so far, what future use they will be put to.

We demand for the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, the unrestricted right to peace, freedom and independence.

We demand that the government of the United States rapidly and totally withdraw all its armed forces from this part of the world, that it name the precise date for this withdrawal, that it put an end to aerial and to military actions directed at the Indochinese peoples.

We demand that the US government cease all support to the governments it has established, and which are manipulated instruments of war and neo-colonialism, and that it let the peoples of Indochina decide freely of their destiny without any foreign interference.